



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

Vol. 3, No. 2

231 King's Highway East

April, 1960

RARE BOOK AUTHORITY TO DISCUSS NOTED COLLECTORS OF PHILADELPHIA AT SOCIETY MEETING, APRIL 26th

We are indeed fortunate to have as our speaker for the Spring meeting Miss Ellen Shaffer, rare book librarian of the Free Library of Philadelphia. Four great names among rare book collectors will be the subject of her talk titled, "Collectors Who Enriched the Future"—Hampton L. Carson, John Frederick Lewis, William M. Elkins and A. S. W. Rosenbach.

All antiquarians will find their appreciation of rare books heightened by this rare view of the influence of these bibliophiles by so distinguished a specialist as Miss Shaffer.

For twenty years she was in charge of manuscripts and first editions at Dawson's Book Shop in Los Angeles which is the largest book store west of the Mississippi. Miss Shaffer taught the history of books and printing for the University of California Extension Service and has authored several volumes on old books.

During World War II, she served in the Air Corps, first in the public relations department at Wright Field, Ohio, and later in the Shipment Control Center, Far East Air Service Command in Dutch New Guinea and the Philippines.

NEXT MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, April 26th

Time: 8:00 P. M.

PLACE: Lake Street Friends'
Meeting House

A native of Colorado, Miss Shaffer has been in Philadelphia since 1954 and is well known for her delightful talks on rare books.

If you have a very rare book, bring it along. Perhaps Miss Shaffer can enrich your background of information on it. Guests are cordially invited so here is the opportunity to get in touch with all your friends who are book lovers and offer them this rare treat.

SALEM OPEN HOUSE

Sixteen or eighteen historic houses will be open (including some new ones) for the annual Salem County Open House Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1. Mrs. A. Ralston Green is chairman.

UNUSUAL NATURAL HISTORY AROUND HADDONFIELD WORTHY OF SPRING STUDY, WRITES LOCAL "THOREAU"

The education and enlightenment of a Haddonfield antiquarian are not complete without a perusal of that delightful book of poems, sketches, prose and historical data authored by the late James Lane Pennypacker, titled, "Verse and Prose," published in 1936 by the Historical Society of Haddonfield (and available there at \$3.50).

In this book, Mr. Pennypacker, who was appointed general chairman of the celebration of the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Settlement of Haddonfield, October 18, 1914, leaves a rich legacy of historical lore on much that is rememberable in and around Haddonfield.

Among his many scholarly pursuits, Mr. Pennypacker was a nature lover and a good botanist. As president of the Haddonfield Natural Science Club he observed in his book that this group inclined too much to the observance and study of nature at second hand through the books and records of others. He urged that members be "out and about in the field seeing and making notes from our own observations." With this thought in mind, Mr. Pennypacker invited his readers to follow him in their imagination on some short walks around the months.

Here is where he leads us in April:

"The skunk cabbage and alder are common plants to be seen within easy reach of your home in almost any direction. In April there come rushing upon us such a host of beautiful and interesting blooms that we are overpowered and confused by the variety. How should we choose as best friend the bird's-foot violet, or the anemone, or the so-

called dogtooth violet, or the pink azalea? Would not a score of other beautiful things be jealous of our favoritism? They surround us on all sides and we may not be partial. And so this month I lead you farther afield to show you one of our rarer and more seclusive beauties. Follow me into the Cedar Swamp, and that may not be too long a tramp for a healthy nature lover. Once there were bits of Cedar Swamp near Haddonfield, one just above the head of the little stream that tumbles down through the new county park back of the clubhouse. Another within a mile, near Saddlertown. A third two miles away near the Marlton Railroad bed beyond the abandoned brick works. These have almost disappeared. I shall lead you five miles down the Kresson Road and into the woods on the right

(Continued on next page)

A PERSONAL APPEAL FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Your fund raising committee of the Society for the acquisition of Greenfield Hall as the new Society headquarters still needs an amount to realize our goal.

If you are interested and have not already made any contribution to the fund, will you give this appeal your consideration either to make a pledge or give a sum of money and send to:

Edwin J. Pearson, Chairman
Lane of Acres,
Haddonfield, N. J.

It is our hope that the month of April will conclude with our goal achieved and settlement consummated.

Herbert R. Leicht,
President

to so-called 'Camp Mohawk.' In the swamp there my April friend flourishes and abounds.

In the spring of 1886, I was probing in the little swamp near Saddlertown, leaping from tree root to tree root to avoid the water. Suddenly there was wafted over me a delicious odor I had never known before, and presently at a little distance I espied a stalk a foot high, an elongated head of rose pink flowers with a mist of blue over them (blue anthers extending from the pink corollas) and flat on the ground a whorl of long green narrow leaves a foot long, two inches wide—from the centre of which the stalk arose. There were only three plants but I must have one. And at home, with Gray's Manual as a guide, I made my first acquaintance with the helonias bullata. 'Swamp pink,' 'thimble head' are local names for it.

It grows with a hollow stem like an onion going to seed and in general appearance resembles the onion growth, but the head is elongated not round, and pink not white, and the fragrance—well, there the onion comparison abruptly ends. It and the few white cedar trees long ago vanished from Saddlertown and now its nearest habitat to Haddonfield that I know is in the 'Camp Mohawk' swamp. The last time I was there, several years ago, there were dozens of plants in bloom and the air was fragrant a hundred feet away. The helonias belongs with the lily group. One of the most delighting of our South Jersey plants, in the house it rapidly loses its rich color, though it will bloom in water two or three weeks. To fully appreciate it you must see it in its native setting. Go to the swamp, thou sluggard!"

And in May:

"A year or two ago the Geographical Magazine printed a photograph of an odd and interesting plant, which picture was

taken several thousand feet up on the flanks of Mount Tacoma, and behold that same plant thrives in the low warm pine barrens of South Jersey! I think it can hardly be found in the whole long stretch of the United States between these points. Perhaps the nearest localities are about Camp Kenilworth below Cresson, or about Taunton. It is frequent at Inskeeps near Winslow—on the ground in open, sandy, neglected fields, a spreading mass of coarse, grasslike leaves from the centre of which tuft rises a single stem two feet or more high, a stem rough with inch-long fibrous, straw-like leaflets or bractlets;

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BRIGHTER OUTLOOK FOR NEW JERSEY HISTORY

Historic preservation in New Jersey will no longer lag behind other states now that a Committee for Historic Sites Evaluation has been appointed by Commissioner Salvatore A. Bontempo of the Department of Conservation and Economic Development.

Chairman is Dr. Richard P. McCormick, former president of the New Jersey Historical Society. The Committee will survey the buildings of historic architectural importance in the state gathering data and photographs in preparation for an evaluation of their relative merit in a state-wide plan of preservation.

The plan is being carried out with the cooperation of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the American Institute of Architects and the National Park Service. The New Jersey Historical Society has furnished the complete list of historical societies in the state and all county societies have been invited to make the surveys in their own areas.

Historical Society of Haddonfield

Haddonfield, New Jersey

Non-Profit Organization

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

at the summit an elongated top-shaped head three or four inches long, of many white, small, lily-like flowers. Its inflorescence is centripetal, opening from the bottom flowers to the final central bud at the top. Many of you know it: the so-called turkey beard (*Xerophyllum asphodeloides*). To the novice, the amateur, turkey beard is always an object of unusual acclaim. "Why, I never before saw anything like that!" And to me who sees it every year it always carries an air of mystery. It is somehow uncanny, mystifying. It sets a seal upon our pine barren lands in May which helps distinguish them from most other floral localities."

The Historical Society of Haddonfield

The purpose of the Society is to encourage historical study and research, to perpetuate the historical heritage of Haddonfield and to acquire and preserve articles of historical and antiquarian interest.

Open Tuesday through Saturday afternoons from 2:30 to 4:30 o'clock.

Mrs. James G. Aiken, Editor
Historical Society Bulletin
Send all editorial contributions to:
120 Warwick Road
Haddonfield, N. J.

HOW TO JOIN THE HADDONFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Check the classification you wish and mail with your check or money order and your name and address to the Treasurer, Mr. Charles R. Mulloy, Jr., 125 Wedgwood Lane, Haddonfield.

Contributing Membership:

\$25.00 per couple per year

Sustaining Membership:

\$10.00 per couple per year

Single Membership:

\$5.00 per year

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Address.....

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